

REMARKS

Claims 11-16 are pending in the application. In the Final Office Action of August 29, 2003, the Examiner rejected claims 11-16 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. Applicants address the Examiner's rejection below.

Independent claim 11 has been amended as per the Examiner's request to overcome the rejection. Claims 12-16 depend directly or indirectly from claim 11 and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons that claim 11 is allowable. Applicants respectfully submit the 35 U.S.C. §112 rejection has been overcome and request that it be withdrawn.

Further, claims 11-16 are allowable over *Kudo* in view of *Ko* and *Noguchi*. Applicants' independent claim 11, as amended, claims a laser annealing apparatus comprising means for intermittently irradiating a pulsed laser beam formed in a band-shape along the longitudinal direction of the insulating substrate to the insulating substrate, and simultaneously moving the laser beam relative to the insulating substrate in the lateral direction with a specific movement pitch while partially overlapping regions irradiated with the laser beam to each other. The overlapped portions of the irradiated regions have a band shape along the longitudinal direction. Any one of the boundaries of the overlapped portions of the irradiated regions is not overlapped on a channel region in the longitudinal direction and the lateral direction.

This is clearly unlike *Kudo* in view of *Ko* and *Noguchi*, which fail to disclose or suggest boundaries of overlapped portions of irradiated regions that are not overlapped on a channel region in the longitudinal direction and the lateral direction. Unlike claim 11, *Kudo* fails to disclose a laser beam irradiation that does not overlap on an active region. *Ko* fails to disclose a laser beam irradiation that overlaps in a channel region in at least one of a longitudinal direction and a lateral direction. *Noguchi* fails to discuss laser beam irradiation that does not overlap in a channel region.

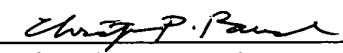
Therefore, *Kudo* in view of *Ko* and *Noguchi* fails to disclose or suggest boundaries of overlapped portions of irradiated regions that are not overlapped on a channel region in the longitudinal direction and the lateral direction. Accordingly, *Kudo* in view of *Ko* and *Noguchi* fails to disclose or suggest claim 11.

Claims 12-16 depend directly or indirectly from claim 11 and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons that claim 11 is allowable.

Applicants respectfully submit the previous rejections based on *Kudo* in view of *Ko* and *Noguchi* has been overcome and request that they be withdrawn.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

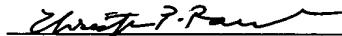
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 (Reg. No. 45,034)  
Christopher P. Rauch

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that claims 11-16 are patentable. It is therefore submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

 (Reg. No. 45,034)  
Christopher P. Rauch  
SONNENSCHEIN, NATH & ROSENTHAL LLP  
P.O. Box #061080  
Wacker Drive Station - Sears Tower  
Chicago, IL 60606-1080  
Telephone 312/876-2606  
Customer #26263  
Attorneys for Applicant(s)